DC

ALL IN

13+ TEEN | 11

Batgirl™

DEADLY CHOICES

BROMBAL
MIYAZAWA
SPICER

OUT OF GOTHAM.
NOT OUT OF BULLETS.

RED HOOD

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WRITTEN BY
GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN

ART AND COVER BY
JEFF SPOKES

JASON TODD STARS IN THE IN-CONTINUITY, MATURE READERS SERIES YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

ALL IN

17+

MONTHLY STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

YEARS AGO.
THE BASEMENT.

AGAIN.

KRAK

AGAIN.

AGAIN.

...

NO.

AGAIN.

NO MORE, CAIN...

HOW DISAPPOINTING.

THE *LEAGUE* PROMISED ME AN OBEDIENT AND *DOCILE* TIGER FOR MY EXPERIMENTS.

IN SCIENCE AND IN WAR, THERE CAN BE NO CONSCIENCE.

SCHEDULING YOU FOR ANOTHER APPOINTMENT WITH *DR. FORGET-ME-NOT* NOW.

Ding!

STEP ASIDE.

FIRST COME *PUNCHES,* THEN COME *BULLETS.*

SOMEONE NEEDS TO TEACH MY *DAUGHTER...*

"...HOW TO **BLEED.**"

NOW. DRAGON RANCH.

*MY MOTHER IS **DEAD.***

*LADY SHIVA **DIED** PROTECTING ME.*

*THEN SHE SENT ME **WEST**... WITH HER JOURNALS. WITH UNTOLD STORIES OF **DEATH.***

*LADY SHIVA SENT ME SEEKING **ANSWERS.***

SEE* BATGIRL *#7-8!* **-JB

*INSTEAD I FOUND HIM. THE **JADE TIGER.***

*HIDDEN **BROTHER** UNKNOWN TO ME...*

*...WHOSE **FATHER** ONCE TRAINED ME TO **KILL.***

*ONE MORE CHILD **BORN** FROM SO MUCH **DEATH.***

*NOW I AM **HUNTED**...BY SWORDS.*

*BY THOSE WHO WANT ME **DEAD.***

AGAIN AND AGAIN.

*DEATH. DEATH. **DEATH.***

*WHEN WILL IT...**END?***

IT ENDS NOW!

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

BATGIRL

THE THREE SWORDS PART 3 OF 3

TATE BROMBAL WRITER TAKESHI MIYAZAWA ARTIST
MIKE SPICER COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS DAVID TALASKI COVER
SAOWEE AND GABRIELE DELL'OTTO VARIANT COVERS
JESSICA BERBEY EDITOR ROB LEVIN GROUP EDITOR

KLING

I'LL EXCUSE THE *FAUX PAS* AS LOST IN *TRANSLATION,* BATGIRL...

...BUT I AM NOT HERE TO *KILL YOU.*

I WAS SENT BY THE *BLOODMASTER* HIMSELF. WU LIN HAS AN *OFFER!*

SO...

...FREAKING...

...COOL.

TRANSLATE *THIS--*

KRAK

OFFER *REJECTED.*

I FLEW **FOURTEEN HOURS** IN MY **LEAST FAVORITE** JET FOR THIS. YOU CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE **TURBULENCE** I'VE BEEN THROUGH.

SO KEEP THAT **NAIL FILE** OF A KNIFE IN YOUR POCKET AND THOSE HAND-ME-DOWN **BOOTS** ON THE GROUND BEFORE YOU RUIN MY COUTURE, AND LISTEN TO MY **OFFER!**

I AM **WU BING,** DESCENDANT OF **THE BLOOD.**

THE VERY BLOOD THAT FLOWS THROUGH YOUR VEINS FROM YOUR **MOTHER** AND YOUR MOTHER'S **FATHER.** LISTEN CLOSE...COUSIN. THE BLOODLINE HAS COME **CALLING.**

THE BLOOD OF WU IS **RESTRUCTURING.** IN THE WAKE OF THE **UNBURIED'S** UNPROVOKED ATTACKS, WE ARE LEAVING THE **SHADOWS** OF COMMERCE AND POLITICS IN EAST ASIA...

...AND WE'D PREFER THE **BATGIRL** TO BE WHERE SHE BELONGS. WITH HER **FAMILY.**

YOU LOST A MOTHER. YES, WE ALL GRIEVE THE UNTIMELY MURDER OF **WU MING-YUE**...ANOTHER CASUALTY OF THE UNBURIED'S **UNJUST** ACTIONS.

HOWEVER, AN ENTIRE NATION OF YOUR **KIN** AWAITS. WE OFFER YOU THIS **FAMILY--**

--AND WE OFFER YOU **ANSWERS.** THE LONG HISTORIES YOU DO NOT KNOW. ACCESS TO YOUR **BIRTHRIGHT,** THE ABILITIES OF THE BLOOD, AND THE **RITUAL** TO UNLOCK THEM.

ALL WE ASK IN RETURN IS FOR YOU TO **JOIN** OUR RANKS, TO **TRAIN** OUR ARMIES, AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR **HOMELAND!**

HEY, **SUNGLASSES,** DID MY SISTER **STUTTER** OR ARE YOU JUST THAT **ARROGANT?**

SISTER...? BY **SHIVA?** THEN YOU, **TOO,** COULD ACCESS THESE--

RETURN TO **WU LIN.** TELL THE BLOODMASTER... I **REFUSE.**

SO BE IT. I **NEVER** FORGIVE A **FAUX PAS** TWICE. IF YOU REFUSE OUR PROPOSAL, BATGIRL, THEN THERE IS ONLY **ONE** OTHER OPTION--

--TERMINATION!

TENJI, NO!

WATCH OUT!

"I KNOW THE BLOOD, SON--

"--THEY HUNTED YOUR MOTHER AND AUNT FOR DECADES JUST FOR CROSSING THEM!

THESE PEOPLE MADE EVIL DEALS WITH DARK SPIRITS TO USE THEIR BLOOD AS WEAPONS.

I RAISED YOU OUTSIDE OF ALL THIS FOR A REASON. THIS IS NOT THE LIFE FOR YOU--

"--IN THIS, THERE'S ONLY DEATH!"

RAISED ME--?

YOU RAISED ME ON LIES, ON FANTASIES THAT YOU WERE SOME TYPE OF HERO TO KEEP ME DOWN, TO KEEP ME DOCILE!

WHAT KINDA LIFE IS THAT, HUH?

BUT MY SISTER IS HERE. SHE IS REAL. AND BATGIRL IS THE ONLY HERO I SEE!

LET ME--
--GO!
BOOOM
TENJI...
SIS--
NOT YOUR FIGHT, JADE TIGER.
YOU TOLD ME TO FOLLOW YOU, TO ***LEARN.*** I TOOK THAT TO ***HEART,*** OKAY, SO WHERE YOU GO, I GO.
GOT IT?
EYES. FOCUSED.
BREATHING. STABLE.
I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT BLOOD'S FOR, RIGHT?
TRUTH.

SHOOM

NO--!

THIS IS **NOT** SOME BLOODY...**FAMILY REUNION!**

IT'S A **BUSINESS PROPOSAL.**

READY?

YOU KNOW IT.

LOOK AT THEM...

TOO SLOW, RICHIE!

YEAH, YEAH.

SKSSSK

SMELL THE **FLOWERS** SOMETIME, Y'BIG **OAF!**

I'VE GOT YOU.

ALWAYS.

...THEY'RE **ALIVE.**

NO!

SLICE

GHH!

TENJI--!

NOT AGAIN.

NOT AGAIN!

DEATH.

DEATH.

DEATH!

WHEN WILL IT END?!

AGAIN.

AGAIN.

AGAIN.

AGAIN.

AGAIN.

AGAIN!

AGAIN!

NO.
NO MORE.
AAAAH!
MY MOTHER--
MY MOTHER...
YOUR MOM JUST *DIED*, CASSIE.
YOU *LOST* YOUR MOTHER.
DOESN'T MATTER.
BARELY... KNEW HER.
YOU *KNEW* HER.
NO ONE EVER TAUGHT ME...
...HOW TO *HEAL*.
I KNOW. I'M SORRY.
LET'S START HERE.

UH, FAM?

YOU STUPID...

:Kaf:

...UNGRATEFUL...

:Kaf KAFF:

...CHILDREN!

:Kaf:

THERE GOES...MY *COUTURE.*

STOP, WU BING.

YOU'RE *DONE.*

YOU'VE LOST *WAY* TOO MUCH BLOOD, CUZ.

LET'S PATCH YOU UP, SEND Y'OFF ON YOUR WAY, THEN WE'LL *ALL* LAUGH ABOUT THIS NEXT YEAR AT THE *FAMILY COOKOUT,* ALL RIGHT?

COOKOUT? *YES.* HER? *NO.*

TELL *WU LIN*...BATGIRL HAS ALL THE *FAMILY* SHE NEEDS.

傻子。 THAT IS--

:KAFF:

--*NOT* HOW THIS WORKS.

THIS...IS A FIGHT--

--TO THE *DEATH!*

BLOOD OF ONE THOUSAND FURIES!

kling kling kling

AAAAAAAHH!

Uhh...

THMP

OKAY?

YEAH. THANKS.

THIS ENDS NOW.

RETURN TO THE BLOOD. TELL THEM...LEAVE THE BATGIRL ALONE.

NO...

-Kaff-

...FIGHT TO THE DEATH, REMEMBER?

WE WOULDN'T WANT A FAUX PAS, WOULD WE?

SO THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER OPTION FOR POOR WU BING--

--TERMINATION.

<DARK SPIRITS...>*

-Kaff-

<...I RELEASE YOU.>

*TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN.

AIIIEEEE!

WHAT THE--

--HELL?

WE SMELL IT...

THE BLOOD OF WU...FLOWS IN YOU.

AIIIEEEE!

THE BLOOD OF WU CALLS FOR US ALL.

WE WILL MEET AGAIN...

...CASSANDRA CAIN AND TENJI TURNER.

Y'ALL SAW THAT, TOO, RIGHT?

FASCINATING...

...IN ALL MY *LIFE,* I NEVER DREAMED I'D SEE A *BLOOD SACRIFICE* AND LIVE TO TELL THE TALE.

AND *THIS* IS WHY YOU DON'T MAKE DEALS WITH *DARK SPIRITS,* KIDS.

SWORD #3 ???

CLAN: THE LEAGUE OF SHADOWS
WEAPON: KUSARIGAMA
FINISHER: SOLAR NEXUS REVERSAL

YEAH, YEAH, WE GET IT. SKIP TO THE *NEXT* PART.

YOU'RE HERE TO *KILL* THE BATGIRL.

GET IN LINE.

WHOA! NO, NO, *NO!*

NO ONE ELSE NEEDS TO DIE. MY SWORD STAYS *SHEATHED,* BATGIRL. I COME TO YOU WITH AN *INVITATION!*

MY NAME IS *JAYA JAYESH.* YOU KNEW MY *FATHER.*

Huh?

THE **LEAGUE OF SHADOWS** HAS REFORMED, BATGIRL.

NYSSA AL GHUL SEEKS TO RIGHT HER FAMILY'S **WRONGS.** SHE HAS BUILT PARADISE DEEP WITHIN THE HIMALAYAS.

A **HAVEN** FOR THE LOST THAT OFFERS **REDEMPTION** TO A BROKEN WORLD, TO **ANYONE** IN NEED OF A SECOND CHANCE.

HOWEVER, A **WAR** IS BREWING...**THE UNBURIED** SEEK TO DESTROY **EVERYTHING** NYSSA HAS BUILT.

NYSSA AND YOU HAVE A **STORIED** PAST, I KNOW. I MYSELF WAS RAISED A **HEALER** BY THE ORDER OF SHIVA BUT LEFT TO JOIN NYSSA'S **LEAGUE** WHEN I WITNESSED ITS **RESTORATION.**

SHE INVITES YOU TO OUR **SANCTUARY,** TO **HEAR** HER PLEA, TO BRING YOUR MOTHER'S KILLERS TO **JUSTICE.**

COME. SEE FOR YOURSELF, THEN JOIN US OR LEAVE. THE **CHOICE** WILL ALWAYS REMAIN **YOURS.**

BEFORE YOUR **FATHER** DIED...HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW.

YOU ARE LOVED.

...

THANK YOU.

I DO NOT TRUST NYSSA. I **DO** TRUST YOUR FATHER. HE **SAVED** ME.

I WILL JOIN YOU... FOR **HIM.**

FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

FOR **ANSWERS** BUT NO **PROMISES.**

AND THE **JADE TIGER** WILL JOIN YOU, TOO.

WHAT?

YOU WERE RIGHT. YOU **ARE** RIGHT, SON.

REALLY?

THIS ISN'T A **LIFE.** I NEED'A LET YOU GO. LET YOU LEARN, MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES AN', SURE, EVEN YOUR OWN **MISTAKES.**

I CAN'T LET MY PAST GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR **FUTURE.**

I ALWAYS PLANNED TO GIVE YOU THESE WHEN YOU TURNED ***EIGHTEEN,*** SON.

WE'RE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, BUT WHAT THE HELL...

THE ***JADE TIGER*** NEEDS HIS ***JADE CLAWS,*** DOESN'T HE?

ARE YOU FREAKING ***KIDDING ME?!***

SON, I AM SO ***SORRY*** FOR LYING TO YOU. FOR HAVING YOU BELIEVE I WAS A DIFFERENT MAN...A ***BETTER*** MAN.

I JUST... NEEDED ***YOU*** TO BECOME THE MAN I SHOULD'VE BEEN.

WE CAN ***BOTH*** STILL BE THAT MAN, POPS.

WE GOT ***LIFE*** LEFT TO LIVE, WHICH MEANS THE ***TEST*** AIN'T OVER YET.

AND FOR THE BATGIRL...

THE ***SWORD OF SHIVA.*** YOUR MOTHER'S FROM DAYS LONG GONE, LEFT IN THE CARE OF ***RICHARD DRAGON,*** THEN PASSED ON TO ME. WIELD IT ***WELL,*** ALL RIGHT?

...

THANK YOU.

NO. THANK ***YOU.*** THE BATGIRL SHOWED UP ON THIS RANCH IN SEARCH OF ***ANSWERS.*** INSTEAD YOU HELPED ME FIGURE OUT A WHOLE BUNCH O'MY OWN. ONES I'VE LONG AVOIDED.

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

I NEVER FIT IN HERE. WAS JUST KEEPING THE RANCH ALIVE FOR ***RICHIE...***

...BUT WITH TENJI LEAVING THE NEST, ***WELL,*** I STILL GOT THE ***SKILLS*** TO DO SOME ***GOOD,*** DON'T I?

YES. YOU DO.

THERE'S ***ONE OTHER*** THING I LEARNED FROM YOUR MOTHER, THOUGH IT ONLY LEADS TO MORE ***QUESTIONS...***

"IN LOSS AND IN PAIN AND IN ***GRIEF,*** IT OFTEN FEELS LIKE ***THREE SWORDS*** ARE LODGED DEEP IN YOUR ***HEART.***

"AND IN THOSE MOMENTS OF ***GREAT TORMENT,*** YOU ALWAYS FACE A ***CHOICE...***

"...WILL YOU ***BLEED OUT*** OR WILL YOU BE ***BRAVE*** ENOUGH TO LOOK DOWN UPON THOSE BLADES TO SEE WHO ***WIELDS*** THEM?

"'CAUSE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, IT AIN'T YOUR ***ENEMIES.***

"YOUR ***HEALING*** IS IN ***YOUR*** HANDS, CASSANDRA CAIN.

"GO ON. WIELD IT WELL.

"THEN STARE ***DEATH*** IN THE FACE AND ASK YOURSELF--

"--WHO WILL YOU ***BECOME?***"

NEXT: SAMSARA

RED HOOD

#1 PREVIEW

WRITER
GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN

ARTIST
JEFF SPOKES

LETTERER
BECCA CAREY

WHERE_____
NEW ANGELIQUE

IT'S SO *HOT* HERE, EVEN AT NIGHT. THE AIR IS LIKE *WARM SALIVA.*

YOU GO TO BED SWEATING AND WAKE UP WITH THE SHEETS STUCK TO YOUR SKIN.

IT MAKES ME THINK OF *APOCALYPSE NOW.*

BRANDO WASHING HIS FACE IN THE HUMID DARKNESS OF THE TEMPLE.

AN OLD PLACE, SINKING BACK INTO THE SWAMP.

ROYALE.

RED HOOD. YOU LOOK ROUGH, CHER. BEEN SHAVING WITH GLASS AGAIN?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I APPRECIATE YOU COMING OUT. I KNOW THE CITY KEEPS YOU BUSY.

RECORDS FOR THE NAPD. I NEED THE FILES OF THE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE TOWER SHOOTINGS. ***DUTY LOGS.*** ANY ***ARREST REPORTS*** THEY WROTE. ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP ME FIND A ***PATTERN.***

SHE AIN'T GOTHAM, *CHER*, BUT SHE HAS HER MOODS. WHAT YOU NEED?

C'EST FOU. THE BULLS HERE HOLD ONTO PAPERWORK LIKE IT'S THEIR BALLS. BUT FOR YOU, I CAN CALL IN A FAVOR.

MEET ME HERE TOMORROW. MIDNIGHT. I'LL GET YOUR FILES.

I FIRST MET ROYALE **YEARS AGO** WHEN I WAS DOWN HERE CHASING ARMS DEALERS **SMUGGLING** WEAPONS OVERSEAS TO SERBIA.

HE KNOWS THE CITY. KNOWS ITS PEOPLE.

HE **KNOWS** HOW TO HANDLE ITS PROBLEMS. I CAN TRUST HIM, I **HOPE.**

I'D ASK **ORACLE** TO GET ME THE INFORMATION I NEED, BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN GOTHAM...

...WE'RE NOT EXACTLY ON SPEAKING TERMS.

THERE YOU ARE...

...I WAS GETTING BORED.

HUNTRESS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I HEARD YOU WERE PLAYING ***COPS*** AND ***ROBBERS.*** THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT ***COMPANY.***

WHICH ONE OF ***THEM*** SENT YOU?

TO BE CONTINUED IN **RED HOOD #1** ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER!

AGES 17+!

DESTINY ISN'T EASY.

C.O.R.T. CHILDREN OF THE ROUND TABLE

Comics superstars TOM TAYLOR and DANIELE DI NICUOLO bring Arthurian adventure into the 21st century in an action-packed series for readers of any age.

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Six issues starting in SEPTEMBER

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON ALL IN

RED HOOD

INTERVIEW WITH GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN

Get ready for a bold new chapter in the life of Jason Todd with *Red Hood*, DC's first-ever in-continuity mature-readers series. Writer Gretchen Felker-Martin teases what fans can expect from this raw, unflinching take on Red Hood, and the emotional chaos at the heart of Jason's journey.

With Jason out of Gotham and away from the Bat-Family, he finally feels fully unleashed. What does that freedom allow you to explore, and what made a mature-readers series the right way to tell this story?

For me, it's that Jason finally has a chance to stop reacting and start thinking. We'll get to see him reconstruct his own idea of right and wrong separate, for better and for worse, from the Bat-Family's code of ethics. I think it felt necessary to make the series mature-readers only because that process is going to result in Jason's violence being seen on the page for exactly what it is.

New Angelique has such a vivid, lived-in feel. What inspired the city, and how does it reflect Jason's journey?

Some big points of inspiration for me were the Louisiana-set horror drama *Eve's Bayou*, which is a favorite movie, and the new *Interview with the Vampire* series, which opens in New Orleans and really sells the beautiful, sweaty, decaying grandeur of the city at the turn of the century. I also think Louisiana, and New Orleans in particular, is the flashpoint for a lot of deeply painful and troubling modern political dynamics we're still watching play out.

What intrigued you about pairing Jason and Helena Bertinelli?

It's such a natural fit. They've both lived lives defined by bloodshed, they've both come a long way in how they relate to their own capacities for violence, and there's also a really personal edge to it for both of them, this shared self-definition by revenge and grievance. They're exactly the kind of people who are going to pull each other off-kilter in a dozen different ways.

Can you tease any new villains or threats Jason will face along the way?

I can tell you there's a telepath known as the Tower who's been orchestrating murder-suicides between police officers, and there's a very ugly cabal in local and federal law enforcement who have been using the people of New Angelique for their own ends. It's going to get pretty nasty.

Jeff Spokes brings so much grit and energy to the page. What's it been like building this world with him visually?

Jeff is such a pro, and he works just unbelievably quickly. He really got exactly what I wanted for the cityscape in particular. Every time I look at a new page, I see a hundred little things I never would have thought to mention but which make such total sense and really make New Angelique feel real, like somewhere you could smell and touch.

This series doesn't hold back, emotionally or physically. What kind of ride are you hoping to take readers on?

I'd like to give readers something sexy and rough-edged and hostile, and I want it to feel relevant to the painful, difficult world we're living in. I'd like to get back to the kind of feeling people got watching superheroes fight Hitler in the '40s, but in a more cathartically violent register.

DON'T MISS
***RED HOOD*,**
ON SALE MONTHLY!

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